(c) the total quantum iron-ore exported annually during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) to which countries these iron-ore is being exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The iron ore produced in the country which is surplus to domestic demand is exported through Ports closer to the centres of production, depending on the availability of infrastructure.

(b) The present policy of the Government provides incentives for value addition to iron ore, which in turn would create jobs.

(c) and (d) The total quantity of iron ore exports, year-wise and country-wise is as under:

(Quantity in Million Metric Tonnes)

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Prov.)
China	42.06	59.40	74.13
Japan	13.10	11.13	10.33
S. Korea	2.14	2.18	1.32
Taiwan	0.88	0.61	0.14
Europe	2.47	2.89	2.10
Others	1.92	1.93	1.25
TOTAL:	62.57	78.14	89.27

(Source: GMOEA, KIOCL, NMDC, MMTC/Private Mine owners)

Extending benefits of NE Industrial Policy to KBK region

2281. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that KBK region of Orissa suffers from severe backwardness like the areas in North-East, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to extend the incentives contained in the North-East Industrial Policy of 1997 and similar policies, for the States mentioned in part (a) above, to the KBK region; and

(c) if so, the probable time by when it would be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. But there is no proposal to extend such package of incentives to KBK region of Orissa on analogy with the North-East Industrial Policy and similar policies of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. The rationale for New Industrial Policy and other Concessions for North-East Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh announced on 24.12.1997, 23.12.2002, 14.06.2002 and on 07.01.2003 respectively were that these States are hilly, geographically isolated, remote to large markets and have poor infrastructure and poor resource base.

Non-Tariff barriers against Indian products in BIMSTEC

2282. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the industry and various organizations to provide details of non-tariff barriers faced by Indian products in BIMSTEC countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that by promoting rapid tariff liberalization in the BIMSTEC region India's exports to these countries will rise by 74 per cent in comparision to 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Commerce had requested for information from the industry by placing a Questionnaire on the Department's website with regard to identifying the non-tariff barriers that exist in the BIMSTEC region.